Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Transport of Canada and the Department of Transportation of the United States of America

Whereas THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT OF CANADA and THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter referred to as "the Participants",

Desire to enhance collaboration and cooperation on transportation matters of mutual interest including the need for more frequent high-level communication regarding policy research;

And whereas the Participants recognize that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system represents a bi-national transportation network linking the industrial heartland of North America to international markets across the globe;

And whereas the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system is unique for the scale and sophistication of its market, and the extensive integration of its economy, serving 15 major international ports and some 50 regional ports on both sides of the Canada/United States border;

And whereas the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system has a significant impact on the North American economy, handling more than 200 million tonnes of cargo each year, contributing upwards of $6 billion annually and supporting roughly 65,000 jobs in both Canada and the United States;

The Participants intend to enhance collaboration and cooperation to:

- ensure the continued viability of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway as a safe, reliable and efficient component of the North American transportation infrastructure;

- identify factors and trends affecting the domestic and international marine transportation industries serving the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway, including evolving intermodal linkages and transportation technologies;

- assess the engineering, economic and environmental factors associated with the current and future needs of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway and the transportation infrastructure on which it depends; and

- evaluate the reliability and condition of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway, including the relative benefits and costs of continuing to maintain the existing transportation infrastructure.

This Memorandum of Cooperation is not meant to affect the rights and obligations of the Participants under their domestic legislation or any international agreement.

Signed, in duplicate, in Washington, this 1st day of May 2003, in the English and French languages, all versions being equally valid.

For the Department of Transport of Canada

APPROVED

David M. Collenette

For the Department of Transportation of the United States of America

APPROVED

Norman Y. Mineta